



2011 First Responder Award Recipients

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 1

Chad Bruckman, Washington County/Johnson City Emergency Management Agency

Mr. Bruckman has worked with the WC/JC Emergency Management Agency since 2008. On April 27, 2011, he was one of the first to respond to emergency 9-1-1 calls reporting a tornado in the northwestern section of Washington County. Mr. Bruckman began the evening in search and rescue mode, assisting several residents with treatment and temporary shelter. Two tornadoes later struck the South Central Community of Washington County with deadly results. Mr. Bruckman assumed the role of Operations Chief, organizing the incident command post, establishing communications and coordinating efforts of more than 50 responding departments and agencies. He worked more than 32 hours straight during the disaster, and over the next 11 days effectively coordinated response and rescue efforts for a storm that resulted in one fatality, numerous injuries and the destruction of 148 homes in Washington County.

Officer Carolyn Gudger, Sullivan County Sheriff's Department

Officer Gudger serves as the School Resource Officer at Sullivan Central High School. On August 30, 2010, a male subject requested to meet with Principal Melanie Riden. Officer Gudger accompanied her, and the suspect immediately withdrew a handgun and pointed it at the head of Principal Riden. Without hesitation, Officer Gudger also withdrew her weapon and pushed Principal Riden out of harms way. Principal Riden fled to safety and Officer Gudger and the suspect engaged in a standoff, moving into the main hallway of the school. The 1,200-student school was placed on lockdown to prevent individuals from entering the hallways. The armed standoff lasted approximately nine minutes before reinforcements arrived. The standoff transitioned into a locker area where two law enforcement officers were waiting. They ordered the suspect to drop his weapon, which he did, then brought it back up towards Officer Gudger. All three officers then fired on the suspect, resulting in a fatal injury. No students, faculty or officers were injured during this incident. Throughout the entire ordeal, Officer Gudger kept the threat addressed on her, placing herself at great risk to protect the students and faculty of Sullivan Central High School.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 2

Chief Roger Robinson, Alcoa Fire Department

With a limited budget, but extraordinary vision, Chief Robinson developed a Fire House for firefighter training and emergency management preparation. Recognizing the need for firefighters to have a location that provides realistic training opportunities, Chief Robinson secured steel freight boxes for little to no cost, arranged for a city employee to craft the containers into a multi-story structure, managed to secure funding to provide gas ignition systems and offered to help train other area agencies once the facility was constructed. The structure is located in an area fit for practice and training, and was even utilized in a recent Emergency Management scenario. Chief Robinson's willingness to share the facility and offer his staff to assist smaller departments is a testament to his professionalism, dedication, determination and vision.

Lieutenant Jeff Stiles, Knoxville Police Department

Lt. Stiles serves as the Training Director for the Knoxville Police Department, where he and his staff have achieved national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), and its Academy has also been honored as a Flagship CALEA Accredited Academy. Throughout Lt. Stiles tenure, he has made an impact in numerous ways. He has provided training facilities to host a number of classes for law enforcement personnel throughout the District; he has offered professional review and evaluation of training materials and programs to be used by law enforcement agencies in the District; and he has worked diligently to obtain POST certification for training that is provided to various departments. Additionally, Lt. Stiles readies the Phil E. Keith Training facilities for use, including the firing and driving ranges, and arranges personnel to assist with district law enforcement tactical training for local and state officers. Lt. Stiles is always present to ensure all needs are met for the training staff and attendees. His knowledge and expertise is a major asset for the region and for District 2 Homeland Security.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 3

Brandon Atkins, Chattanooga Fire Department

Firefighter Atkins was involved in the rescue attempt of two infants on February 12, 2011. After extinguishing the fire, the firefighters began searching for the victims. With visibility virtually down to zero, Firefighter Atkins found an infant on the floor in a back bedroom. Other firefighters then found another child and an adult female in the same bedroom. All were carried out the back door, delivered to waiting paramedics with Hamilton County EMS and rushed to Erlanger Hospital. The infants were transported to T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital. Unfortunately, the youngest child was pronounced dead on arrival. However, Firefighter Atkins brave and selfless act resulted in the discovery of all three individuals.

Chief Ken Wilkerson, Hamilton County EMS

On April 27, 2011, Hamilton County was hit with nine tornadoes throughout the day, leaving in its wake 11 fatalities, hundreds injured and millions of dollars in damage and destruction. Chief Ken Wilkerson was charged to lead our unified incident command. He worked long hours on little sleep and was an inspiration to many members of the command staff. Chief Wilkerson's calm demeanor, along with excellent communication skills, made for an outstanding command structure. His diligence and attention to detail allowed the rescue response to move seamlessly. He also coordinated and ensured that logistical support was deployed as well. Thanks to his efforts, many lives were saved, while pain and suffering were kept to a bare minimum.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 4

Chief Rocky Dial, Livingston City Fire Department

Mr. Dial has been a volunteer firefighter since 1988. Working his way up the ranks, he is now the Fire Chief of the Livingston City Fire Department, a position he has served on for the past eight years. Chief Dial has focused on training and preparedness throughout his tenure as the department's commander. He also serves as instructor in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Basic Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED, Basic First Aid, TARS – Emergency Vehicle Operations and TARS - Extrication, Blood Borne Pathogens and NIMS. He also teaches on a monthly basis and stresses the importance of preparedness in the workplace, community and in the home. Chief Dial has acted as a pillar in the community, serving on multiple boards including 911, Local Emergency Planning Committee, UCHRA, and the Upper Cumberland Fire Chiefs Association.

Carmen Burnette, Putnam County EMS (posthumously)

Mrs. Burnette worked for Putnam County EMS for 13 years and was a shining example of excellence as a first responder in any discipline. On January 6, 2011, Mrs. Burnette sustained a serious back injury during the course of her duties as a Paramedic. She had routine surgery on February 15, hoping to correct the condition and resume her busy career and active family life. Tragically, at the age of 38, Mrs. Burnette died during surgery for an injury received doing the job she loved. During her illustrious career, Mrs. Burnette coordinated a long-term program to train laypeople in Putnam County in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillation (AED). This ambitious program involved providing CPR/AED training to every sophomore and senior in all county high schools. Ms. Burnette coordinated with three high schools, Putnam County EMS employees and Cookeville Fire Department employees to conduct the training. During the time period covered for this award, 2,302 high school students and teachers were trained to perform CPR and use an AED to the standards of the American Heart Association. Approximately 600 delegates from every corner of the state were exposed to this program with the American Heart Association Friends and Family CPR/AED each year. In addition, biennial CPR/AED training was offered to all 400 employees of Putnam County. In addition to her role in the CPR/AED program, Ms. Burnette's primary job was as a paramedic and a Field Training Officer at Putnam County EMS. She trained new Putnam County EMS employees, and assisted with training and quality improvement in five other counties in the Upper Cumberland. She also worked closely with the Cookeville chapter of Mended Hearts, a group of cardiac survivors who raise money through bake sales, etc. to buy AEDs to donate to churches and other groups in the region. Mrs. Burnette's life was about love and service, and the training programs she was so instrumental in coordinating will continue as a legacy and tribute to her tireless dedication.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 5

District Chief Debbie D. Campbell, Nashville Fire Department

Chief Campbell is a 26-year veteran of the Nashville Fire Department (NFD) and currently holds the rank of Fire District Chief in the Suppression Bureau. She has been an inspiration for all women who have a similar desire to serve their community as an emergency responder and rescue worker. On several occasions, Chief Campbell has willingly sacrificed her time and made scheduling adjustments to serve as a training officer. As a training officer, she has proved her competence, compassion and leadership skills. Chief Campbell has also worked multiple years in the Special Operations Divisions of the NFD including, swift water rescue and boat/marine operations. She maintains a current knowledge of policy, procedure and guidelines for performance, never shirks responsibility, and always exemplifies the manner and method of accepting her position both as a leader and as a firefighter. Chief Campbell has proved to be a great asset to the Nashville Fire Department and to the community as a whole.

Lieutenant Floyd Hyde, Metro Nashville Police Department

Lt. Hyde has served for many years with the Metro Police Department, and headed up its Emergency Contingency Section of the Special Operations Unit for several years. He is responsible for leading a team of trained personnel to perform hazard and vulnerability assessments and develop associated response and contingency plans. Lt. Hyde serves as a liaison with federal, state and local homeland security agencies and coordinates training, preparedness, planning and response aspects of the Metro Nashville and Homeland Security District 5 LETPP program. From the beginning, he has served in the Homeland Security District 5 and Nashville UASI law enforcement committee and continues to strengthen these valuable resources to prevent and fight terrorism. Lt. Hyde also serves with the Tennessee National Guard and has had multiple successful deployments to the Middle East in support of the nation's fight against terrorism abroad. The efforts of Lt. Hyde cannot be fully measured, but it has undoubtedly made Nashville and the region a safer place to work, live and visit.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 6

Jessica Doak, Bedford County Emergency Management Agency

Ms. Doak serves as Assistant EMA Director for Bedford County and has a well-documented history of unselfishly responding to other jurisdictions with response and recovery operations during major disasters. She is one of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) Middle Region “go to” personnel when effective and experienced assistance is needed during disaster response. In late February 2011, severe storms impacted several counties in the southern portion of Middle Tennessee. After the storms passed and Bedford County was left relatively unscathed, Assistant Director Doak was personally requested to respond to Moore County to coordinate their response to tornado-related damage and later to Franklin County to assist in its disaster response efforts. She worked tirelessly in both counties to ensure response activities were completed in a timely and effective manner and appropriately documented for future use. In April 2011, several counties in the eastern section of Middle Tennessee were impacted by a severe outbreak of tornadoes. TEMA requested Assistant Director Doak to respond to Bledsoe County and set up disaster response coordination operations at its Emergency Operations Center. She worked around the clock to make sure outside resource response requests were made to the state so that local recovery operations could begin immediately for Bledsoe County residents. Assistant Director Doak is an outstanding representative for Bedford County, as well as in the local and state-wide emergency management and public safety communities.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 7

Sheriff Norman Lewis, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Lewis is currently serving his fourth term as Sheriff for Montgomery County. During his time as Sheriff, he has been a charter member of the North-Middle Tennessee Homeland Security District, now known as Tennessee Homeland Security District 7. The Sheriff is also the current Chairman for District 7. He has been a key driving force in the successful implementation and execution of a viable goal for maintaining district-wide funding and weekly participation from all disciplines throughout District 7. Sheriff Lewis acts as a liaison for District 7 for the sharing of information from federal agencies and military personnel. He provides information and support for Department of Homeland Security and assists in disseminating information to other law enforcement elements, regional emergency responders and to members of the United States intelligence community. Sheriff Lewis has made it a priority to ensure Homeland Security District 7 is and continues to be one of the top districts in the nation.

Chief Jimmie Edwards, Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services

Chief Edwards may be new to Montgomery County, but not to Homeland Security District 7. While working for state emergency medical services, Chief Edwards was a regular at District 7 meetings, keeping the district informed on EMS initiatives throughout the state. He was also instrumental in developing and deploying EMS Strike Teams to Kentucky during the ice storm of 2009. After recovering the teams from Kentucky, Chief Edwards and other peers in state EMS developed a training program that addressed Strike Team leadership, training and education needs for future deployments of EMS assets. This program is now offered to all regions throughout the state. Since assuming the role as Chief, he continues to provide valuable input and has been instrumental in forming EMS Focus Groups to address training, education, exercises and equipment needs.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 8

Jeff Hummel, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Officer

A veteran TWRA Officer, Mr. Hummel went beyond his normal wildlife duties to investigate a suspicious vehicle occupied by three men on Henryville Road in Lawrence County. Hummel followed the vehicle to a dead-end road, was met by gunfire and subsequently wounded. The suspects stole Hummel's TWRA vehicle and fled the scene. TWRA Officer Hummel sustained gunshot wounds to the shoulder, arm and back, but continued pursuing the suspects with Lawrence County Sheriff Kenny Taylor. After a one mile chase, the suspects wrecked the vehicle and fled on foot into a wooded area. Both Hummel and Sheriff Taylor gave chase, eventually capturing all three suspects. The trio was later indicted for charges ranging from attempted murder to aggravated burglary for a series of thefts in the community. Officer Hummel was treated for his injuries and praised in the community and beyond for his heroic acts.

Bill Phillips, Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency

A longtime volunteer for the Lawrenceburg/Lawrence County EMA, Phillips has primarily served as Public Information Officer for the agency since 1993. He has provided press releases and pertinent information to assist in the management of floods, ice storms and tornadoes. Phillips is also a trained weather spotter and ham radio operator, helping to coordinate the Skywarn Network and dispatch radio traffic while providing live weather radar information to the spotters in the field. He is also active as a civic leader for the Lawrenceburg Rotary Club.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 9

Sergeant David Powell, Henry County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Powell is a 22-year veteran of law enforcement and works full-time for the Henry County Sheriff's Office as a Patrol Shift Sergeant. On February 21, 2011, an inmate at the Henry County Jail suffered a massive heart attack and was found by other inmates

with no pulse. The officers on duty called for EMS, but Sgt. Powell, who was nearby, overheard the call and responded with an AED that he recently received training for. He applied the AED device and successfully started the inmate's heart. Due to the quick thinking and swift response by Sgt. Powell, he saved a life. Sgt. Powell has proven himself time and time again as an outstanding officer and exemplary member of the law enforcement community.

Phillip Anglin, Gibson County EMS

Mr. Anglin was one of the first responders to arrive on the scene of a motor vehicle crash on November 19, 2010. Gibson County Emergency Medical Services' Medic I and Trenton Fire Department arrived on the scene to find the victim had been ejected through the wind shield and was thrown approximately 20 feet up an embankment. Upon examining the victim, it was established that the patient had a collapsed lung and needed a Level One Trauma Center. First responders were en route to the Gibson General Hospital helipad when both lungs collapsed on the patient. Anglin and his peers worked fiercely to save the patient's life. As of submission of this nomination, the patient was alive and recovering. Anglin and the team of professional care givers extended this patient's life.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 10

Officer Rickey Howell, Adamsville Police Department

On September 29, 2010, while on patrol, Officer Howell noticed a suspicious vehicle parked at the end of a residential street. Upon further investigation, Officer Howell noted that the vehicle was registered out-of-state and was occupied by one male. Officer Howell approached the suspect, who then identified himself. Officer Howell became suspicious and detained the suspect, running checks on both the suspect and the vehicle. He was advised by dispatch that suspect was wanted by the Kentucky State Police for a possible double homicide. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and extradited to Kentucky. Because of Officer Howell's due diligence, he was able to apprehend a dangerous felon.

Director Marty Clements, Jackson-Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Director Clements has supported the law enforcement community and the Madison County Sheriff's Office for several years. In March 2011, Director Clements headed up the support team for all the officers involved in the manhunt for two escapees from Louisiana. Agencies involved in this manhunt included, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louisiana State Police, Jackson Police Department and the Madison County Sheriff's Office. Director Clements ran the 24-hour a day operation from March 9 through March 14, providing meals, refreshments and any equipment that was required. He also assisted the Assistant Superintendent of Jackson-Madison County Schools with early dismissal on the afternoon the fugitives were spotted. As the EMA Director, Clements has directed our county through four Presidential Declarations for tornadoes, severe storms and floods since 2008. He provides instruction for our department's in-service training and has assisted in the instruction of NIMS courses. Due to Director Clements, an effective and efficient response plan and activation of the Emergency Operations Center is in place.

HOMELAND SECURITY DISTRICT 11

Lieutenant Perry McEwen, Shelby County Sheriff's Office

A leader in the area of Homeland Security for District 11, Lt. Perry McEwen chairs the law enforcement committee for the Memphis UASI working group and has been instrumental in organizing training and exercises for a six county region. One of the projects implemented by the committee is the Prevention of Improvised Explosive Devices. Through Lt. McEwen's leadership as an experienced bomb technician and his foresight of the need for a new level of preparedness, he spearheaded an idea for a bomb dog in each county of the UASI District. He wrote the specifications and recommended the approach and it was overwhelmingly approved for implementation. Lt. McEwen has followed through, helping each county purchase the specialized dogs and the training to take care of them. His group has also started a dog handlers association, where they performed exceptionally at the first-ever railroad car inspection training. The Shelby County Sheriff's Office has been a strong ally in this state for Homeland Security and a large part of that effort can be attributed to professional officers with a vision like Lt. McEwen.

Deputy John Lemley, Tipton County Sheriff's Department

On May 2, 2011, Tipton County received historic rainfall and flooding, resulting in rapidly rising waters that made driving conditions extremely dangerous. Deputy Sheriff Lemley received a rescue call, where a woman's vehicle had been overtaken by the rising waters and she had retreated to the rooftop to avoid drowning. Deputy Lemley was the first on the scene and quickly assessed the deteriorating situation, as the rising water now covered the vehicles' headlights. Lemley's backup was still several minutes away, however, he retrieved a life jacket from his cruiser, treaded into the swift waters and retrieved the woman from the vehicle roof. Deputy Lemley courageously and without hesitation or reservation entered the water to save the woman's life.

TENNESSEE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Mike Caudill, TEMA Area Coordinator

During the three Presidential Declarations for multiple storms, tornadoes and flooding events in April 2011, Mr. Caudill was fully engaged in all aspects of response and recovery. In March 2011, one month before the historic flood, he started monitoring the Ohio River Valley flooding that could have impacted Tennessee. Mr. Caudill, along with local government and the National Weather

Service began making weekly river monitoring visits to potentially impacted areas. He provided situational reports and projections based on the current situations and projected rainfall, always bearing in mind the impact on agriculture and structures. Once the Mississippi River and its tributaries began flooding, Mr. Caudill put together a plan for possible levee overtopping or levee breaks. He prioritized areas to be evacuated and how best to handle the situation. His pre-planning efforts enabled us to watch critical areas for potential problems. He performed all of these duties in addition to his full-time Area Coordinator responsibilities.

CITIZENS CORPS

Lieutenant John Scott Vanzandt

Lt. Scott Vanzandt has become an integral member of the Memphis/Shelby County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) instructional team for the CERT Train-the-Trainer course. In partnership with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security's Citizen Corps program, he continues to help instruct the Train-the-Trainer course for Memphis/Shelby County and for all counties in West Tennessee. Over the past year, Lt. Vanzandt has taken part in the instruction of over 75 citizens to become certified CERT instructors within their communities. Lt. Vanzandt has offered his knowledge and professionalism to the CERT program and the citizens of Tennessee, and has helped make our state safer and better prepared.

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Special Agent Patrick Looney, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent Looney has spent 15 years in law enforcement, and was hired at the TBI in 2006. There, he started his career as a Special Agent in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. He was then transferred to the Criminal Intelligence Unit in 2007, where he is currently assigned as a Special Agent in the Fugitive Apprehension Unit. Special Agent Looney also serves as a pilot of TBI's airplane. In addition to his flight missions for TBI, Special Agent Looney routinely works TBI Top 10 fugitive investigations, absconded sexual offender investigations, white collar fraud and background investigations. He also performs as a firearms instructor. Special Agent Looney was awarded the TBI Medal of Valor by TBI Director Mark Gwyn in 2010.

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL

Trooper Tracy Tyler, Tennessee Highway Patrol, District 8

Trooper Tyler responded to a "be on the lookout" (BOLO) for a 2011 Buick Enclave in reference to a welfare check on March 8, 2011. He located the vehicle, occupied by two males, in Madison County. As Trooper Tyler was interviewing the driver, who was believed to be the welfare check individual, the subject jumped back into the vehicle and sped off on Interstate 40 West. A pursuit ensued and another Trooper was able to spike the front tire of the vehicle at the 87 mile marker on I-40. With Trooper Tyler directly behind the vehicle, it slowed down and exited at the 85 mile marker and into the Pilot Truck Stop parking lot. As Trooper Tyler pulled in to block the vehicle, the suspects rammed his patrol unit twice and again sped back onto I-40, abruptly turning down an embankment and fled on foot into a wooded area. The suspects were later identified as escape fugitives from Louisiana and a massive multi-jurisdictional manhunt resulted for nearly two weeks. They were eventually captured and later charged for the kidnapping and murder of the individual whose family had requested the initial welfare check. Trooper Tyler's quick response in locating the vehicle prevented the violent criminals from continuing their crime spree and made it possible to secure valuable evidence for further prosecution.

Sergeant Kenneth Rose, Tennessee Highway Patrol, District 1

Sgt. Kenneth Rose is the Hazardous Materials Manager for the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and is responsible for the certification and in-service training for all Level IV (radioactive inspections) Inspectors in the agency. In addition to training THP Troopers, he also provides training for hazardous material shippers. Sgt. Rose also serves as the liaison for Level IV inspection and radioactive shipments for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), Joint Terrorism Task Force, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Nuclear Security Agency, Department of Energy, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Nuclear Fuel Services and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Sgt. Rose also performs compliance audits on radioactive materials and transuranic carriers and shippers. His skills, professionalism and integrity are an invaluable asset to the Tennessee Highway Patrol.